

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Noriyuki TANI et al.

Appl. No : Not Yet Assigned (National Stage of PCT/JP2003/009887)

I.A. Filed : August 4, 2003

For : SUBSTRATE TRANSFER APPARATUS FOR
COMPONENT MOUNTING MACHINE**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND COVER LETTER
SUBMITTING AMENDED PAGES OF APPLICATION**

Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop _____
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report - Form PCT/IPEA/409 (hereinafter "Report") which was drawn on the originally filed description and drawings, and claims 1 - 8 as filed on August 4, 2003, and includes as an Annex amended pages including claims 1 - 8.

Based upon the submission of amended sheets of claims, Applicants respectfully request examination on the merits of the application containing the amended pages of claims 1 - 8, in place of originally filed claims appearing in International Application No. PCT/JP2003/009887 as originally filed.

Additionally, prior to the examination of the above-identified application including replacement claims 1- 8, amendment of claim 8 and addition of claim 9 as follows, are respectfully requested to remove multiple dependent claims.

NEW CLAIMS ENTERED